THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA) (a) No, Sir

(b) and (c) Suggestions were invited from the public in connection with the Budget for 1986-87 The suggestions received related mainly to tax concessions, incentives and fixing the size of the Annual Plan 1986-87 Such suggestions are received before the formulation of the Budget every year and are taken note of to the extent feasible while formulating the Budget of that year.

Evasion of Customs duty by a Bombay based company

*113. SHRI VIREN J SHAH.

SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state·

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item which appeared in the Indian Express published from Bombay dated December 5, 1990 to the effect that officials of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence have unearthed an alleged fraud by a Bombay based company importing scamless pipes and tubes and stainless steel covers for supply to the ONGC without paying any customs duty;

(b) whether it is also a fact that these items were not used for the purpose for which these were imported and whether the customs duty evaded amounted to Rs. 7 crores, and

(c) if so, what action is being taken against the company?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA)· (a) Yes, Sir. .

(b) and (c) Acting on intelligence reports, the Officers of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence searched the office and factory premises of the firm M/s. P. J. Pipes and Vessels (P) Ltd. on 3rd November, 1990 The firm had reportedly imported 548 M T of stainless steel plates without payment of duty during the period from October, 1989 to March, 1990, under Special Imprest Licences read with Customs Exemption Notifications, with the condition that the stainless steel plates will be used in the manufacture of casing pipe connectors and thread protectors for being supplied to M/s ONGC. The firm had reportedly not manufactured the end product using stainless steel and had sold about 277 M T of the imported stainless steel plates in the local market The balance quantity of about 271 M T have been seized Further investigations into the case are still in progress.

Assistance to small scale industries by SIDBI

*113-A. DR JINENDRA KUMAR JAIN·

SHRI BAL RAM SINGH YADAVA·

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that the Small Industries Development Bank of India has recently introduced a scheme for assistance to the small scale industries;

(b) if so, the industries proposed to be given assistance under this scheme, and

(c) whether assistance to various States is being given under the scheme, and if so, the names of such States where industries have benefited and the amount of assistance given?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI YASHWANT SINHA). (a) and (b) Small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has introduced 5 new schemes for the benefit of units in the small scale sector since July, 1990 Of these, the latest scheme is for direct assistance for development of industrial areas. Under this scheme,